

IN THE CLAIMS

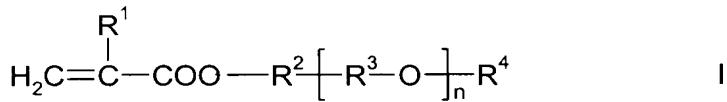
Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method comprising operating a machine dishwasher with a rinse aid contained therein which comprises, as a depositing-inhibiting additive, a copolymer comprising alkylene oxide units and comprising, in randomly or blockwise copolymerized form,

- (a) 50 to 93 mol% of acrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of acrylic acid,
- (b) 5 to 30 mol% of methacrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of methacrylic acid

and

- (c) 2 to 20 mol% of at least one nonionic monomer of the formula I



in which the variables have the following meanings:

- $\text{R}^1$  is hydrogen or methyl;
- $\text{R}^2$  is a chemical bond or unbranched or branched  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkylene;
- $\text{R}^3$  is identical or different unbranched or branched  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_4$ -alkylene radicals;
- $\text{R}^4$  is unbranched or branched  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl;
- $n$  is 3 to 50,

wherein the copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of from 3,000 to 30,000.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises 65 to 85 mol% of component (a), 10 to 25 mol% of component (b) and 5 to 15 mol% of component (c) in copolymerized form.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises 65 to 75 mol% of component (a), 15 to 25 mol% of component (b) and 5 to 10 mol% of component (c) in copolymerized form.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises, as component (c), a nonionic monomer of the formula I, in which R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, R<sup>2</sup> is a chemical bond, R<sup>3</sup> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkylene, R<sup>4</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>-alkyl and n is 5 to 40, in copolymerized form.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises, as component (c), a nonionic monomer of the formula I, in which R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, R<sup>2</sup> is a chemical bond, R<sup>3</sup> is ethylene, R<sup>4</sup> is methyl and n is 10 to 30, in copolymerized form.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer comprises -SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> Na<sup>+</sup> and/or -SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> Na<sup>+</sup> as end groups.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 30,000.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of from 15,000 to 25,000.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer has a K value of from 15 to 40.

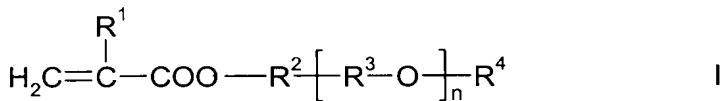
Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer has a K value of from 20 to 35.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer has a K value of from 27 to 30.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein deposits originating from soiling constituents of a wash liquor are inhibited.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~The method according to claim 1 A method comprising operating a machine dishwasher with a rinse aid contained therein which comprises, as a depositing-inhibiting additive, a copolymer comprising alkylene oxide units and comprising, in randomly or blockwise copolymerized form,~~

- (a) 50 to 93 mol% of acrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of acrylic acid,
- (b) 5 to 30 mol% of methacrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of methacrylic acid
- and
- (c) 2 to 20 mol% of at least one nonionic monomer of the formula I



in which the variables have the following meanings:

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or methyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is a chemical bond or unbranched or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylene;

R<sup>3</sup> is identical or different unbranched or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylene radicals;

R<sup>4</sup> is unbranched or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl;

n is 3 to 50,

wherein the copolymer is in solid form and provided with a coating therein which is soluble under rinsing conditions of the dishwasher.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 15, wherein the coating comprises polyvinyl alcohol.

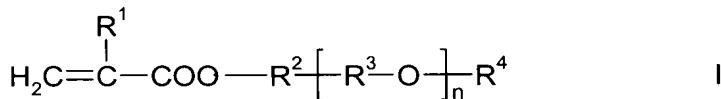
Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1 A method comprising operating a machine dishwasher with a rinse aid contained therein which comprises, as a depositing-inhibiting additive, a copolymer comprising alkylene oxide units and comprising, in randomly or blockwise copolymerized form,

(a) 50 to 93 mol% of acrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of acrylic acid,

(b) 5 to 30 mol% of methacrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of methacrylic acid

and

(c) 2 to 20 mol% of at least one nonionic monomer of the formula I



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R<sup>3</sup> is identical or different unbranched or branched C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkylene radicals;

R<sup>4</sup> is unbranched or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl;

n is 3 to 50,

wherein the copolymer is incorporated into a matrix which is soluble under rinsing conditions, and is introduced into the dishwasher together with a detergent, but is released only in a rinsing cycle of the dishwasher.

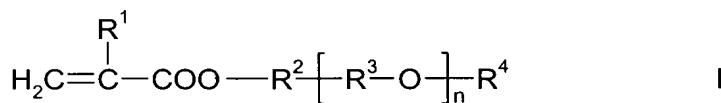
Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the matrix material is selected from the group consisting of gelatin, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethylene oxide, cellulose and derivatives thereof, starch and derivatives thereof, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A solid composition comprising a coated tablet comprising a copolymer, which copolymer comprises alkylene oxide units and comprising, in randomly or blockwise copolymerized form,

- (a) 50 to 93 mol% of acrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of acrylic acid,
- (b) 5 to 30 mol% of methacrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of methacrylic acid

and

(c) 2 to 20 mol% of at least one nonionic monomer of the formula I



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$\text{R}^3$  is identical or different unbranched or branched  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_4$ -alkylene radicals;

$\text{R}^4$  is unbranched or branched  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl;

$n$  is 3 to 50, and

wherein the coating is soluble under rinsing conditions of a machine dishwasher.

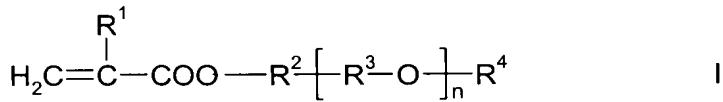
Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A solid composition comprising a copolymer incorporated into a matrix, which copolymer comprises alkylene oxide units and comprising, in randomly or blockwise copolymerized form,

(a) 50 to 93 mol% of acrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of acrylic acid,

(b) 5 to 30 mol% of methacrylic acid and/or a water-soluble salt of methacrylic acid

and

(c) 2 to 20 mol% of at least one nonionic monomer of the formula I



in which the variables have the following meanings:

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$\text{R}^3$  is identical or different unbranched or branched  $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_4$ -alkylene radicals;

$\text{R}^4$  is unbranched or branched  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl;

$n$  is 3 to 50, and

wherein the composition is releasable only in a rinsing cycle of a machine dishwasher.